

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached three sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-5. Figures 1-5 have been amended to add a "Prior Art" legend to each figure.

Replacement sheets for the amended figures, including Figures 1-5, will be submitted in a separate paper to the Official Draftsperson.

Attachment: Amended Drawing Sheets 1-3/8.
Attached at the end.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the case. All claims stand rejected. In the present submission, claims 1-24 have been cancelled and claims 25 to 38 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objection

The Examiner has objected to Figures 1-5 of the drawings. Figures 1-5 have been amended to include the "Prior Art" legend as required by the Examiner. Applicant submits herewith amended Figures 1-5 with the proposed changes for the Examiner's approval. Replacement sheets for the amended figures, including Figures 1-5, will be submitted in a separate paper to the Official Draftsperson.

Claim Objections/Rejections

Claim 18 is objected to because of informalities and claims 1-24 are rejected based on various cited references. In the present submission, because claims 1-24 have been cancelled, the objections and rejections as to these claims are now moot.

New claim 25-38

New claims 25 to 38 have been added, of which claims 25 and 32 are independent claims. Support for claims 25-38 can be found in Applicant's specification, page 12, line 21, to page 13, line 18 and page 14, line 31, to page 15, line 20.

Claim 25 is patentable over the cited references at least by reciting "each A/D converter in the sensor array is connected to a group of at least two neighboring photodetectors for receiving analog output signals from the group of photodetectors, each A/D converter multiplexing between the photodetectors in the group to convert the analog output signals of the photodetectors into digital signals as the pixel data associated with the photodetectors" and "the A/D converters multiplex between the first and second photodetectors in the groups according to the first and second exposure times." Applicant submits that at least these features of the claimed invention of claim 25 are not disclosed in the cited references. Claims 26 to 31, dependent upon claim 25, are patentable at least for the same reasons claim 25 is patentable.

Claim 32 is patentable over the cited references at least by reciting "each A/D converter in the sensor array is connected to a group of at least two neighboring photodetectors for receiving analog output signals from the group of photodetectors, each A/D converter multiplexing between the photodetectors in the group to convert the analog output signals of the photodetectors into digital signals as the pixel data associated with the photodetectors" and "and the A/D converters multiplex between the first and second photodetectors in the groups according to the first and second sets of exposure times." Applicant submits that at least these features of the claimed invention of claim 32 are not disclosed in the cited references. Claims 33-38, dependent upon claim 32, are patentable at least for the same reasons claim 32 is patentable.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-24 have been canceled and claims 25 to 38 have been added. For the reasons stated above, claims 25 to 38 are in condition for allowance. Passage of the present application to allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner would like to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 382-0480.

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703)872-9306 on April 18, 2005.

Carmen C. Cook 4/18/05
Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen C. Cook

Carmen C. Cook
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 42,433

Patent Law Group LLP
2635 N. First St.
Suite 223
San Jose, CA 95134
Tel (408) 382-0480
Fax (408) 382-0481